



County of Milwaukee

Office of the Sheriff

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Last week Governor Doyle proposed that we yet again form a dreaded “commission” to look into what he no doubt believes is prima facie evidence of institutional racism based on a statistical percentage that by itself is conclusive of nothing. No one will crusade on behalf of the victims of crime. They are disproportionately black as well.

But why let comparative statistics get in the way of pandering? The report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency revealed that black males in Wisconsin are incarcerated in disproportionate rates to their white counterparts. With the rate of violence in urban centers across America no one should be surprised by that.

Black males are indeed disproportionately incarcerated in relation to their total number of the population nationwide. What the NCCD won't tell you however is that black males are not incarcerated disproportionately when compared to their involvement in violent criminal activity. Our goal is not to have equal numbers of representation in prison by race; our goal should be harsh consequences for committing violent acts.

Crime victimization is the social injustice here, not disproportionate incarceration rates. If the criminal justice system disproportionately incarcerates black males, then why was Stanley Gray, who killed Frank Moore Jr., who went to check on his neighbor's house, not locked up? He had 22 previous arrests, many for crimes of violence. Why was Michael Ray Green who killed Joe Munz, the UWM student and Jimmy John's employee, out on extended supervision? Why was Christopher Jones, who killed Special Olympian Brandon Sprewer, for his wallet, out after having a previous 4 ½ -year prison sentence stayed by a judge after he shot someone over bootleg movies?

Wisconsin's criminal justice system does discriminate — against victims of crime, not criminal defendants. Watered down sentences, in exchange for plea bargains, finding excuses not to prosecute, low or no bail allowing perpetrators to go back into black and other impoverished minority neighborhoods to victimize law abiding black residents once again, is what a governor ought to be outraged about. This has created a system of revolving door injustice, which leads to recidivism, which results in a criminal justice system that disproportionately discriminates against black neighborhood residents.

On December 29th, I attended once again the memorial service for all of the people who were violently killed in the Milwaukee area in 2006 at a central city church. Only one other elected official was in attendance. The rest must have been busy framing their position statement of “concern” over the report from the National Crime and Delinquency Council. The surviving family members who were in attendance were also disproportionately black. They are the ones deserving of our concern—not the killers, but they don't fit the race-baiting agenda.

Here is how to reduce the incarceration of black men and boys. Black men and boys must begin making better lifestyle choices. For example, not impregnating women the y

have no intention to commit to, better parenting and childrearing involvement, a fatherhood initiative that insists on men raising their children from inside the home, getting as much education as they can beyond high school, for men, getting and staying married as a lifestyle if for no other reason than the health and well-being of their children. This alone would reduce child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, perpetrated by live-in boyfriends and the carousel of other men dropping in and out of the home. Refraining from drug and alcohol abuse and other forms of instant gratification, finding and staying employed no matter how menial the job may seem. Staying in the labor force has to become a lifestyle.

Government cannot replace the intact family unit.

There. The proposed "commission" can now be disbanded before it is even formed. If people still feel a need to form a commission, my suggestion is that it be made up of crime victim survivors only.